Letters to the Editor

Master Road Plan

An editorial in the Colonist rightly points out the advantages of an immediate start on the development of the newly acquired Gordon Head site of Victoria College. In this connection it may be found advisable to make changes in the recently tabled study of a capital region plan.

It would appear that there would be advantages in having Foul Bay Road connect with Gordon Head Road at Cedar Hill Cross Road instead of at Finnerty Road as shown in the tentative "major road plan." It does not seem advisable to have a major highway cut directly through the college campus.

I believe at the University of B.C. it is proposed to prohibit motor traffic through the campus grounds in the highly developed portion. And, of course, a new shopping centre at Ruby Road or the proposed new east-west cross-road and Gordon Head Road would be much more feasible than the one presently proposed at Finnerty and Sinclair Roads.

The proposal made by the Capital Region Planning Board in its regional study "that the municipalities appoint their engineers to a permanent metropolitan highway planning committee of the board, the provincial government having already agreed to do so" is an excellent one and should be carried out immediately, since a master highway plan is the necessary pre-requisite for a comprehensive regional plan.

LINN A. GALE.

1037 Craigdarroch Road.

Radio Blackout

One of the strangest radio blackouts was reported as occurring on the West Coast Thursday night. That night Victorians saw the northern lights or aurora borealis, which is said to be caused by magnetic or electrical forces extending over millions of miles, so it seems possible the two events happening on the same night might be related.

HARRY FURNESS LEGGETT.

1560 McRae Avenue.

Compulsion Abhorrent

In my opinion criticism of the government and attempted justification of the striking action of civil servants has evaded a crucial point, in that compulsion is always abhorrent.

I cannot see the legality (if such be required) of our civil servants striking to demand the tabling of a report in the provincial house. If tabling of the report should, on principle, be done surely the publicity of a petition overwhelmingly subscribed would be the right course.

The disruption of public business as a result of civil servants striking is an intolerable prospect. Likewise, as a past RN and matron of a hospital, I am appalled and alarmed at suggestion of strike action by nurses. There are some rights that even in a happy democracy we cannot and should not claim.

KATHLEEN M. WORTHINGTON-LAKE.

851 Maddison Street.

Soon Forgotten

Reference in a recent issue of the Colonist that an oak tree on Beach Drive is to be dedicated to the late Mr. Sloan calls to mind similar dedication of trees in past years and the resultant neglect of councils to provide for the maintenance of the surrounding areas.

Especially is this obvious in Beacon Hill Park where a very large area was set aside by ex-Mayor Herbert Anscomb, former reeve of Oak Bay and subsequently minister of finance in the Coalition government, known as Mayors' Grove and in this area trees of various species were planted by visiting dignitaries such as Sir Winston Churchill, the Prince of Wales, the King of Siam, and others as one can barely discern from the sign post so in need of restoration.

Surely the city park committee and council members will agree this area so notably dedicated by world-wide figures is of historic value to the city of Victoria.

Why not cultivate around each tree trunk with colorful blooms and place a suitable granite slab or natural wood showing the name of the tree and the name of the person who planted same and surround each tree with a small enclosure?

Let us hope this can be accomplished without further delay.

J. B. WITHERSPOON.

Ten Mile Point.

Igloo May Hold Answers

Why Do Men Fight?

By J. J. HANLIN
North American Newspaper Alliance

The Eskimo as we know him has only about five more years to live. And when he dies he will take along with him the solution to many riddles of modern life.

This is the opinion of Dr. Svend Frederiksen, one of the world's foremost authorities on the people of the Far North.

"Through an oversight," the anthropologist said, "we are letting a chance of the ages slip through our fingers. The Eskimo is really the only important primitive person left to study. It's a real crime not to get to know his vast, mysterious and romantic world while we still have a chance to.

"Inside his igloo is the answer, perhaps, to why we go to war. He can tell us many things about 'human nature in the raw.' He can tell us why we are again in the act of making woman the head of the family."

Dr. Frederiksen, who has devoted his entire life to the study of the Eskimo, speaks fluent Eskimo and is married to an Eskimo.

We shall always know more about the Greenland Eskimo than the Alaskan, Canadian or Siberian Eskimo, Dr. Frederiksen explained.

"What is little realized," he said, "is that the Greenland Eskimo has a printed language of his own. There are Eskimo novelists, poets and journalists in Greenland. It is interesting that they have no love poetry as we know it. A primitive Eskimo could not understand a story like Romeo and Juliet."

To the primitive Eskimo sex is sex. His culture traditionally has been highly erotic and Dr. Frederiksen believes this is the result of the woman being the important member of the family rather than the man.

"With the arrival of the missionary," he said, "the man began to wear the pants in the family. Family life became happy and well rooted.

"But now things have taken a new twist. With the Eskimo's talent for lapping up civilization, the woman once again has become dominant. She has escaped from the igloo and is beginning to run things. We are faced with a growing problem of divorce among the Eskimos and a return to their primitive sexual patterns. Or, perhaps, a stride toward modern ideas on sex."

Where is the Eskimo going today?

★ ★ ★

He is going right downtown, as soon as he gets the cash, buying TV sets, new automobiles and even refrigerators. But before he pipes hot water into his igloo, Dr. Frederiksen believes, we should set up an "institute of Eskimology."

Some things which might be learned, he says, are:

How does a primitive society evolve into a civilized one?

How does this evolution affect the family system and the roles of the husband and wife?

Which aspects of "human nature" are the basic ones—the ones which carry over from the old society to the new?

Dr. Frederiksen believes that the Eskimos are changing so rapidly that, in studying their evolution, we could have a capsule history of civilization in five years.

LUDWIG ERHARD
... most likely to succeed

★ ★ ★

Adenauer Refuses To Groom an 'Eden'

By OMER ANDERSON
North American Newspaper Alliance

Ludwig Erhard is opening an active campaign to succeed Chancellor Konrad Adenauer in 1961.

This is the upshot of Adenauer's misfired strategy to have the economics minister kicked upstairs into the federal presidency.

The chancellor will be 85 years old in 1961, but he made known his intention of standing in 1961 for another four-year term.

In perfect health, Adenauer takes for granted that he will have a life span extending well past 90 years of age.

Adenauer's associates in the chancellor's Christian Democratic Union think otherwise. Since 1955, there has been a swelling demand that Adenauer pick and groom his successor, as did Sir Winston Churchill with Anthony Eden. But the chancellor has refused to accede.

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Meantime, Foreign Minister Heinrich von Brentano and Defence Minister Franz-Josef Strauss, the two front-runners for the Adenauer succession, seem to have eliminated themselves.

Brentano, as foreign minister, has permitted himself to be dominated by Adenauer. Strauss successfully asserted his independence of Adenauer, but the defence minister has established a record for erratic conduct and poor public relations judgment.

There has been growing criticism that it is not entirely happenstance that Adenauer remains without a successor. Adenauer's efforts to elevate Erhard to the presidency collided head-on with his criticism.

★ ★ ★

To capture the Adenauer succession, Erhard apparently need do only two things: Preserve West Germany's economic prosperity—and adjust Adenauer to the idea that there must be an heir-apparent, and that Erhard is the man.

Facts easily establish this proposition. As architect of the German economic "miracle," Erhard is, next to Adenauer, the Christian Democrats' biggest vote-getter.

Of late, Erhard has branched out as a foreign affairs specialist as well as economic miracle man, and he intends expanding his international role.

Erhard recently made a trip through the Middle East and on to East Asia and India to study how Germany can assist the developing countries. He was widely acclaimed.

★ ★ ★

Closer to home, Erhard's current big undertaking is healing the rupture between the six European common market nations and the 11 other members of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC). This rupture threatens serious political difficulties.

Adenauer has failed, with purely political methods, to achieve the Free Trade Area. Now Erhard intends applying his technical talents to the problem.

In brief, Erhard is achieving stature rapidly as an economic statesman, and thereby devaluating Adenauer's "indispensability" on the world stage.

ROBERT SOMMERS
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Guilt Sense Planted

New Drug Fights Alcoholism

By ERIC DOWNTON
North American Newspaper Alliance

A "guilt drug" to combat alcoholism is producing striking results in pilot-research experiments in Saskatchewan clinics.

The drug, LSD, induces hallucinations. While the patient is experiencing them, a psychiatrist — through suggestion — implants a sense of alcoholic guilt in the patient's subconscious.

The new drug (lysergic acid di-ethyl amide) is derived from ergot, a fungus which causes disease in rye and other cereals. Derivatives of ergot have long had a number of uses in medicine, especially to control haemorrhage and to assist in labor at birth.

LSD has hallucinatory qualities many times greater than mescalin—some specialists say 5,000 times greater. Because of this potency it is often applied in the treatment of schizophrenic patients.

Several years ago Dr. Abram Hoffer, Saskatchewan psychiatric research director, proposed experiments with the drug in cases of extreme alcoholism. He and his collaborators have been proceeding cautiously, but report some remarkable findings.

All cases tackled have been bad examples of confirmed alcoholics, most with other complications. Treatment is usually in one session at a hospital or clinic. The patient passes through a series of hallucinations, being guided and conditioned during this period by a psychiatrist who aims at creating a sensitive, although controlled, "alcohol guilt complex."

Striking Results

About half the 50 extreme cases involved seem to have been successfully cured.

Others have been partly successful.

A striking aspect of the treatment is that, in a number of cases, cured patients have felt confidence enough to indulge in moderate alcoholic drinking without slipping back into habitual drunkenness. This is a feature rarely achieved by antabuse and other drugs that cause nausea and flushing at the taste of alcohol and which are now being extensively applied in Canadian anti-alcoholism clinics.

Doctors warn that use of LSD is still in experimental stages and that patients must be carefully checked by a psychiatrist before undergoing the treatment. But they think the drug may eventually make an important contribution to the battle against alcoholism.

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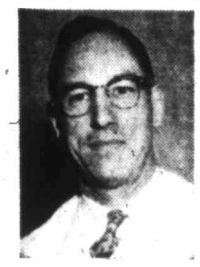
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